Job Opportunities for Urban Unemployed

632. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken, so far, to provide more and better job opportunities to the urban unemployed and underemployed in the country;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to make structural changes in the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) Scheme; if so, by when;

(c) whether Government also propose to give due encouragement to self employment ventures and make provision for wage employment and training; and

(d) if so, whether any budgetary provision has been made during 1999-2000 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) This Ministry is implementing Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), a Centrally sponsored scheme, w.e.f. 1.12.1997. The scheme seeks to provide gainful employment to urban unemployed or underemployed poor living below poverty line by encouraging them to set up self-employment ventures and through wage employment. Skill development through appropriate training is another element of this programme.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government has been contemplating some structural changes in SJSRY.

(c) These aspects are also kept in view.

(d) An amount of Rs. 176.35 crore have been earmarked for the SJSRY programme for the year 1999-2000.